

## BOOK REVIEWS

**KARI, PRISCILLA RUSSELL.** 1987. **Tanaina Plantlore: Dena'ina K'et'una.** 2nd Edition, Revised. Alaska National History Association. Paperback \$9.95 plus \$2.00 postage & handling. 205 pp.

The ethnobotanical publication of the Dena'ina Indians of south central Alaska is well illustrated with colored plates of people and plants. Part I contains the background of the culture and environment in relation to the usage of plants. Part II treats individual plant species that are grouped mostly according to the habit of the plant. Gymnosperms, monocots, dicots, ferns, mosses, lichens, fungi, and algae have been utilized in some respect by this culture. One item that caught my interest was the following statement: There is a story... of a giant artist's fungus [*Ganoderma* or similar appearing]...said to have been about a quarter of a mile wide..." and I thought my foot and a half long (18 inches) specimen was large (Mabler 9983). An excellent book well worth the price. wfm

**JOHNSON, FRAN HOLMAN.** 1990. "The Gift of the Wild Things": The Life of Caroline Dorman. The Center for Louisiana Studies, P.O. Box 40831. University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette, LA 70504-0831. Hardbound, Price Unknown. 166 pp.

A biography of one of Louisiana's most prominent personalities is most welcome. Although I never met her, Dr. Lloyd Shinnars knew her and talked about some of her botanical pursuits. I was not disappointed when I read it as I found a reference to Dr. Shinnars and his comment regarding Caroline Dorman. Her life was a pioneering one, ahead of her time. For me, it was a review of the past issues that have now surfaced and are actively part of everyone's life. wfm

**DUKE, JAMES A.** 1989. **Ginseng: A Concise Handbook.** Reference Publications, Inc., 218 St. Clair River Drive, Box 344, Algonae, MI 48001. Hardbound \$39.95. 273 pp.

This book is a must for anyone interested in ginseng. The text evaluates the past scientific studies in a non-technical style that is captivating reading. The topics covered in the chapters are taxonomy, history, Siberian ginseng: *Eleutherococcus*, carrots and ginseng, root booster, other herbal teas, chemistry, pharmacology, immunology, other pests, agroecology, economics, law and an appendix on population biology. The chapter on pathogens was contributed by Melodie Putnam. The title could just as easily have been "A Comprehensive Handbook." wfm